



Don Nickles, Chairman
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FY2004 Budget Resolution Conference Report: Investing in EDUCATION

We are spending more on education now than at any time in American history. Since Republicans took over Congress, federal funding for education has increased at two times the rate of growth for all federal spending - nearly three times as fast as the defense budget.

Title I. The Budget assumes a \$1 billion increase over 2003 for Title I Education for the Disadvantaged grants to local education agencies to help high poverty school districts meet the reforms in the No Child Left Behind Act.

Special Education. The Budget assumes a \$2.2 billion funding increase in 2004 and an additional \$2.5 billion increase in 2005 for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to help states pay the excess costs of educating over 6.5 million children with disabilities.

Head Start. The Budget provides \$6.8 billion for Head Start, a 2.2 percent increase over 2003.

Impact Aid. The Budget rejects the President's requested reduction of Impact Aid funding and instead increases the program by \$50 million over the 2003 level.

Pell Grants. The Pell Grant program has had a shortfall in recent years as the number of recipients and maximum awards have increased. The Budget provides enough funding for the upcoming academic year at the maximum award level of \$4,050 and partially eliminates the shortfall. The maximum Pell grant has gone from \$3,000 in 1998 to \$4,050 this year - a 35 percent increase in just five years.

SOURCE: Senate Budget Committee, Don Nickles, Chairman